

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 56th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

JOINT APPROP SUBCOMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND TRANSPORTATION

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN LILA TAYLOR**, on January 18, 1999 at 8:00 A.M., in Room 402 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Lila Taylor, Chairman (R)
Sen. Mike Taylor, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Eve Franklin (D)
Sen. Ken Mesaros (R)
Rep. Ray Peck (D)
Rep. Joe Quilici (D)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Lynn Daily, Committee Secretary
Mary Beth Linder, OBPP
Amy Sassano, OBPP
Jim Turner, Legislative Fiscal Branch

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Mary Coster, Chair of ICCW Child Care Subcommittee, talks more on the proposed day care center. **EXHIBIT(jgh13a01):** Proposed Child Care Program for State Employees

Questions From Members and Responses

SEN. TAYLOR talks about the proposed rate of \$7.00/hour, he believes that this too low and would like something around \$9.00. He then asks if the total amount includes benefits and workers compensation fees. **Mary Coster** says that the wages are calculated with these acted in.

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SEN. TAYLOR asks what kind of cash they have on reserve. Right now it is about \$200 from being in the hole. **Mrs. Coster** says that this would be a contracted service and would be the contractor's responsibility. **SEN. TAYLOR** says that they are going to subsidize a non-profit corporation with a daycare in Helena, are we going to put a burden on people who are trying to make a living and paying taxes. **Mrs. Coster** says that she has looked into this and the small daycare providers pay very little in taxes. **REP. QUILICI** says that when the RFQ is put out any one has the right to submit a bid.

SEN. TAYLOR has no problem with day care center, but he does have a serious problem with subsidizing a non-profit group for this purpose. **SEN. FRANKLIN** says that if there was money to be made in private daycare then there would be more of them.

REP. PECK asks how many children would be under the care of one teacher. **Mrs. Coster** says that there would be 6.5 people for 48 pre-school children and one for 12 after school children, for a total of 321 hours at \$7.00./hour and one at \$11.50/hour for 40 hours per week for the director. **REP. PECK** asks if many home providers will lose their clientele. **Mrs. Coster** says that there are certain areas which are not able to handle the children. These are state pay clients, infants, and part time children. **REP. PECK** states that most universities have their own day cares. **Mrs. Coster** says that the campuses are subsidized.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 0 - 30.5}

SEN. TAYLOR is not going to vote for this. It would be a great benefit, however next year we would have to come up with money for other counties. He agrees with the concept but not the engine.

REP. QUILICI is going to vote for it because he knows how important it is to state workers to know that their children are taken care of.

REP. PECK says that a private company can do whatever they want. We are talking about a limited number of people who would benefit.

SEN. FRANKLIN is going to vote for it to keep the idea alive.

SEN. TAYLOR would be willing to give \$50/week for the private industry.

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Motion/Vote: SEN. TAYLOR moved to set a rate of \$5.13 for the first year and \$5.37 for the second year, would exclude child care and rental rates. Motion carried 4-2 with Franklin and Quilici voting no.

Pat Mckelvy, Chairman of the State Tax Appeal Board, submits a request to reconsider the vote to line item the 4.5 FTE county tax appeal board secretarial appropriation and would request instead to reduce the total FTE from 4.5 to 3.0 FTE.

Motion/Vote: Rep. Quilici moved to reconsider motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion/Vote: Rep. Peck moved that state wides do pass as amended; making the following service adjustments: subtract \$25,118 from each year and to reach a dollar amount of \$48,559 for the first year and \$47,163 for the second year. Motion passed unanimously.

Linda Vaughey, Commissioner of Political Practices, speaks for their budget. **EXHIBIT(jgh13a03):** Requests for Budget Adjustments*

See Attachments

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 0 - 30.7}

EXHIBIT(jgh13a02)

Notes from Meeting

Original form taken from exhibit in bold

\$94,789 Major Legal Expenses for FY 1998 (Page 3)

- contained a settlement fee of about \$21,000

Questions From Members and Responses

REP. PECK asks why there are overtime and compensation rates.

Linda Vaughey says that the staff has an option of comp time or overtime pay. It is standard practice in their office to pay the comp time out at the end of the fiscal year. **Mary Beth Linder** states that usually the position is defined as overtime or comp time.

REP. QUILICI asks why the agency faces more legal expenses in FY99. **Mrs. Vaughey** states that there is a case involving Montana Right to Life. **REP. QUILICI** asks if there has been more than one Right to Life case. **Mrs. Vaughey** state there have been and the current one challenges limits on contributions that can be made to a campaign.

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CHAIRMAN TAYLOR asks if there was a supplemental for the \$31,000 they are asking for. **Mrs. Vaughey** says that is true but the it has to be payed out of this years budget and that is why it was brought up.

SEN. TAYLOR asks Mrs. Vaughey to get a list of costs and number of cases. **Mrs. Vaughey** states that up until 1992 there was a report published that did just these things. She would like to do this again but in a condensed form. **REP. QUILICI** thinks that the report would be a good idea to show exactly what the agency has been working on.

REP. PECK asks about the fees that are charged. **Dulcy Hubbert, Administration Officer of the Political Practices Office,** says that there is not a fee for filing a complaint, but there is a fee if action is taken when you are the plaintiff on the claim. Lobbyists are also charged a \$50 fee. This averages out to between \$30,000-\$40,000 per biennium which then goes into the General Fund.

SEN. TAYLOR asks about the computers that they are requesting. **Mrs. Vaughey** states that they have two Dell computers that are five years old, and they are not 2000 compliant. They could have these computers upgraded, but it would not be money well spent. They are requesting the same brand but with larger monitors. **Amy Sassano** state that the computers would be what ISD considers the state standard.

REP. PECK asks about the ethics committee that was providing foreign law. **Mrs. Vaughey** states that she is not familiar with it, however they have not had any ethnic complaints in quite some time.

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ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 9:50 A.M.

REP. LILA TAYLOR, Chairman

LYNN DAILY, Secretary

LT/LD

EXHIBIT (jgh13aad)